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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF SCOULERINE

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To readily and stably obtain scoulerine, having antioxidant activities and useful as a sedative, an antispasmodic, a hypotensive agents, etc., from an easily available raw material without using a papaveraceous plant by extracting *Nandina domestica* Thunb. with a polar solvent.

CONSTITUTION: A component soluble in a polar solvent is initially extracted from *Nandina domestica* Thunb. by a method for allowing the *Nandina domestica* Thunb. to stand in a polar solvent a whole day and night while occasionally stirring, e.g. the polar solvent and the *Nandina domestica* Thunb. and then filtering the resultant extract. A basic component is subsequently extracted from the component soluble in the polar solvent according to a fractionation method, etc., utilizing, e.g. dissociating properties due to a difference in pH and finally treated by a chromatography (preferably the high-performance liquid chromatography) to isolate scoulerine. Furthermore, ethanol is preferred as the polar solvent used for extracting the *Nandina domestica* Thunb. Components, contained in the *Nandina domestica* Thunb. and soluble in the nonpolar solvent are preferably preremoved with a nonpolar solvent such as hexane before the operation in order to efficiently carry out the extracting operation with the polar solvent.

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